

Genesee County Medical Control Authority

System Protocols UNSAFE SCENE AND STAGING

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Unsafe Scene and Staging Protocol

Note: This policy applies to any situation which may expose EMS personnel to known or potentially violent (e.g. shooting, stabbing, assault, other violent crimes) or other known or potentially hazardous (e.g. hazardous materials, chemical, biological) conditions. It further establishes criteria for staging in these situations.

1. If a potentially violent and/or dangerous situation is encountered and there is no police assistance immediately available and/or forthcoming, the first priority is for the safety of the EMS personnel. Decisions regarding treatment of the potential patient must be made with safety of responding EMS personnel in mind. Responding EMS personnel should not place themselves at unnecessary risk.

2. All available information should be carefully analyzed. Determine if dispatch information, coupled with the exterior observations indicate a potentially dangerous situation or otherwise unsafe incident. In any situation in which the scene is not secured, EMS personnel **ARE NOT TO ENTER THE SCENE** until it has been secured by the appropriate agency.

3. Once on scene, if the situation changes posing an immediate life or limb threat to EMS personnel:

A. Attempt to safely exit scene.

1. Exit scene with patient, if possible.

2. Medical treatment protocols may be limited or deferred to assure safety of EMS personnel and/or patient.

B. Notify the dispatcher of the assistance needed.

C. Provide any additional information available (e.g. number of assailants, weapons present/involved, any additional information).

4. If the determination is made by the responding personnel using either information from the dispatcher or from initial observations at the scene that this is a dangerous situation, the responding unit should park at a minimum of one-quarter to one-half mile from the incident location unless another staging location has been selected by the dispatcher. If this location is still unsafe, the responding unit should find and move to a more secure area. If the unit does move the 911 center should be notified of the change. The responding EMS unit will make the decision whether the incident location is safe enough for them to enter the scene. They are not required to proceed if directed by the general public, police or any other person unless they feel comfortable that the scene is safe and secure.

5. On Tier 2 calls an EMS unit will not be dispatched by 911 to a call where the scene is suspected of being unsafe until a police unit has been dispatched and is responding.

6. Once the EMS unit has been dispatched, and before the police unit has arrived and/or evaluated and cleared the scene for safety, the unit should remain in a safe location. The unit

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being staged will contact the 911 Center 20 minutes after the unit arrives on scene and will notify the 911 Center that the unit will clear the scene.

7. EMS personnel are not in the business of supplying police services. EMS personnel should not place themselves in combative or otherwise personally hazardous situations while attempting to deliver medical services.

8. EMS agency dispatchers should do everything in their power to determine the safety of the scene to which their personnel are being sent to. Agency dispatchers should exercise a high degree of suspicion on all calls that suggest a violent or hazardous scene. Calls such as assaults, shootings, stabbings, suicide attempts or psychological problems are recognized as scenes that could be unsafe.

9. If the EMS unit is advised to stage by the 911 Center, then they should respond without lights and sirens unless specifically directed otherwise by the 911 Center.

10. When an EMS unit is dispatched as a standby unit for fire incidents they will do the following:

- a. Report to the Fire Incident Command Officer or Staging Officer.
- b. Ensure that EMS personnel, equipment and vehicle are in a safe location.
- c. Establish a triage location for potential firefighter or citizen care.
- d. Personnel are not to leave the location until they have been released by fire incident command.